

The background of the slide features a silhouette of five people climbing a jagged mountain peak against a bright, golden sunset sky with scattered clouds. The figures are positioned in a line, ascending the mountain. The person at the bottom left is reaching up, while the person at the top right is giving a thumbs-up. A large, semi-transparent grey circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the title and subtitle text.

# Education & VR Working Together

**The Benefits of a School to Work  
Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor**



Both laws require that students are provided with transition services

# `Transition Services' Means a Coordinated Set of Activities (IDEA 2004)

According to Cambridge Dictionary:

Coordinated means “to act in harmonious combination”

To best meet our obligations under WIOA and IDEA we should be working together and that is the intention of the Federal Agencies' overseeing compliance to these laws.

# Pre-Employment Transition Services

- Job exploration counseling
- Work-based learning experiences, which may include in-school or after school opportunities, experiences outside of the traditional school setting, and/or internships
- Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary educational programs
- Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living
- Instruction in self-advocacy

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“Case managers can hand off some of the transition activities to a person with a direct line to the community”.

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“Develop relationships with VR while students are still in school”.

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“Having a person attend an IEP meeting creates a relationship, not just pamphleteering to families”.

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“Case managers learn from VR, so they can more actually describe activities in the community”.

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“Teachers are exposed to and learn how to select more meaningful transition opportunities for students by watching the VR counselor interact with families and seeing the results.”

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**Benefits to the District-School to Work  
Counselor**

# Benefits to VR

- VR participates as an active member of the IEP team
- Increases comprehensive transition planning
- VR can provide more direct pre-employment transition services to students
- VR builds relationships with student prior to graduation
- VR can develop an Individual Plan for Employment with a student prior graduation

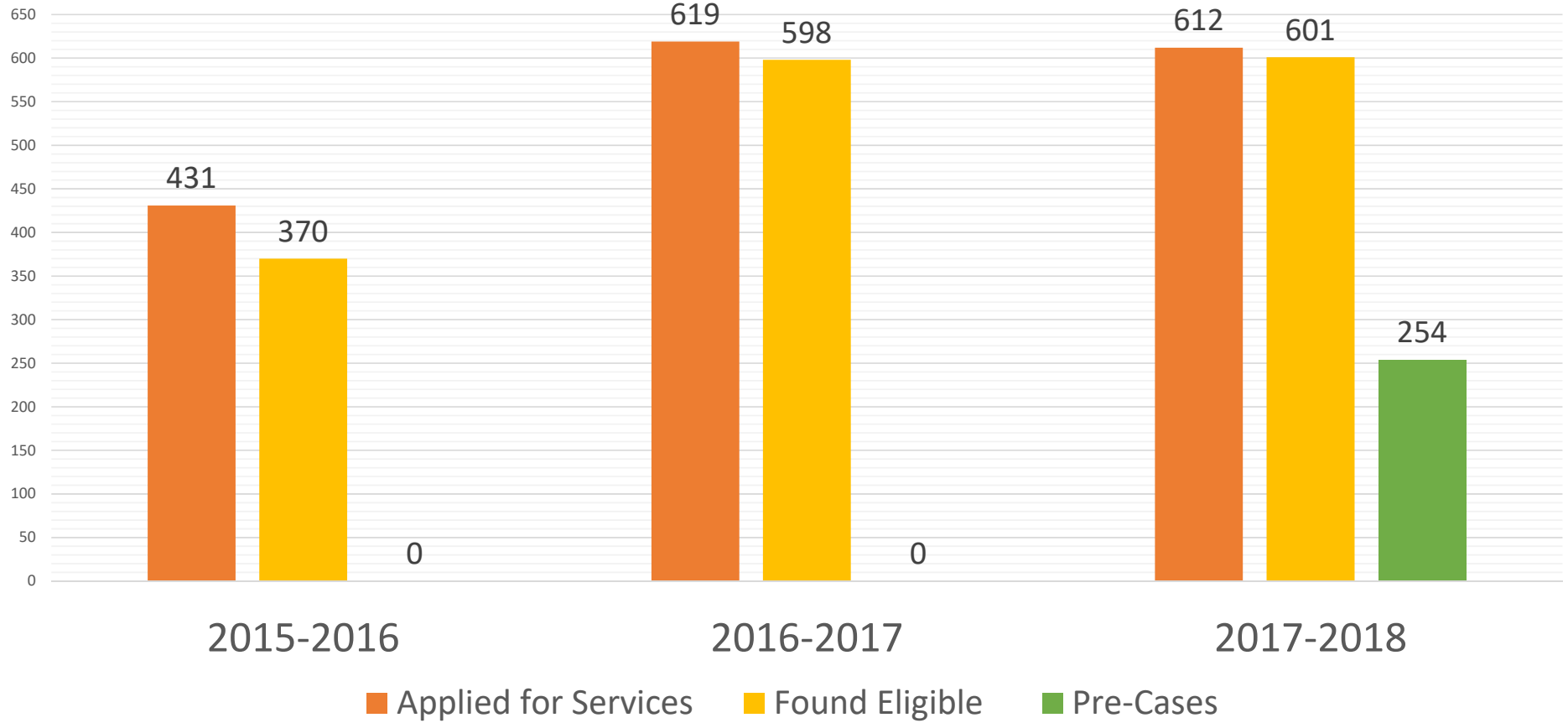




## Benefits to Students

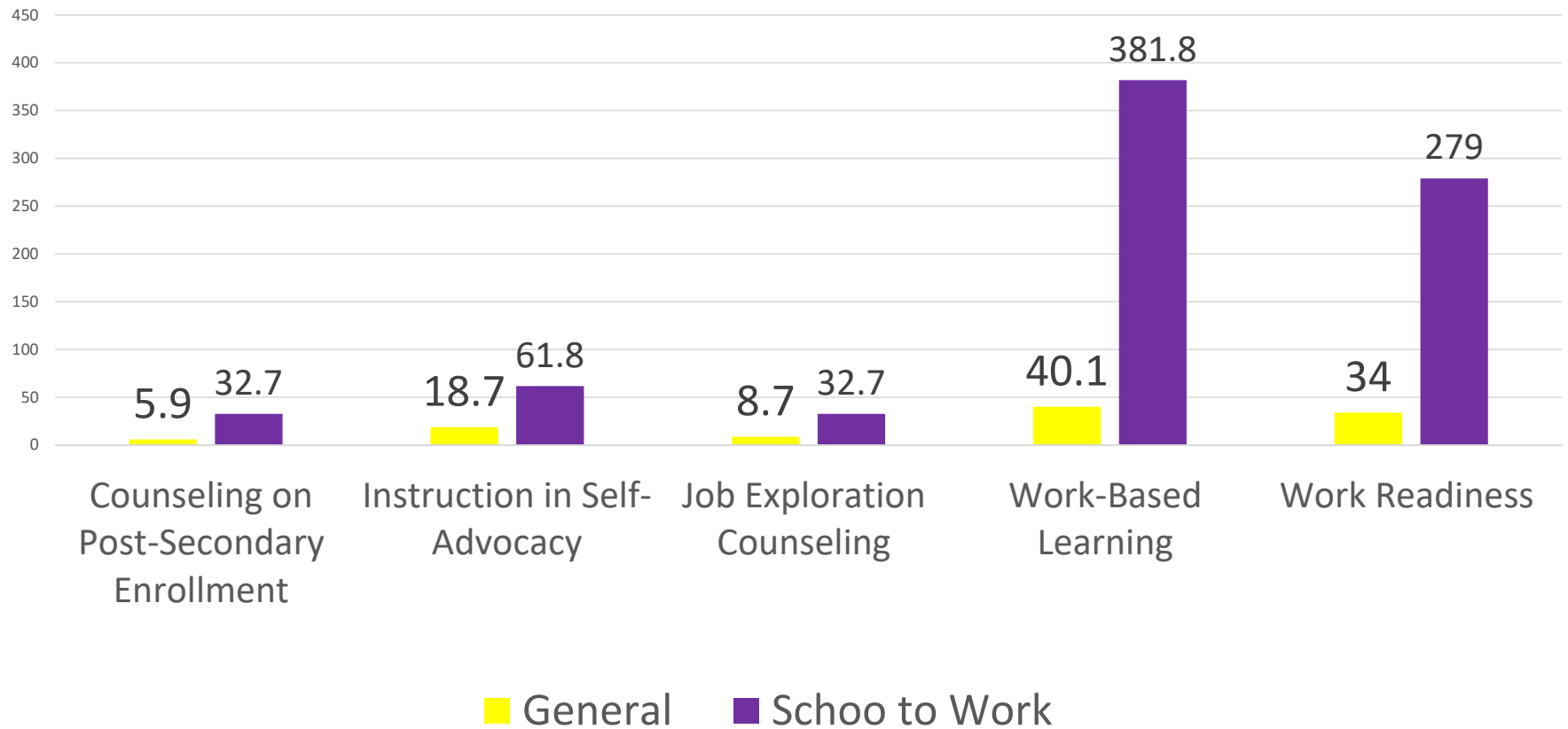
- “The Academy has made me more excited and prepared to go to college.”
- I learned how to build up my resume with the experiences that I am having.”
- I loved my job so much and I love that I can buy things with my own money that I earned.”
- “ I feel like I have better idea on what I want to do as a job.”
- I was offered a permanent job at the end of the summer work at a yogurt store. I love my boss and co-workers.”
- “I learned what I need to work on in school next year, so I will do well in college.”

### Students with Disabilities working with VR

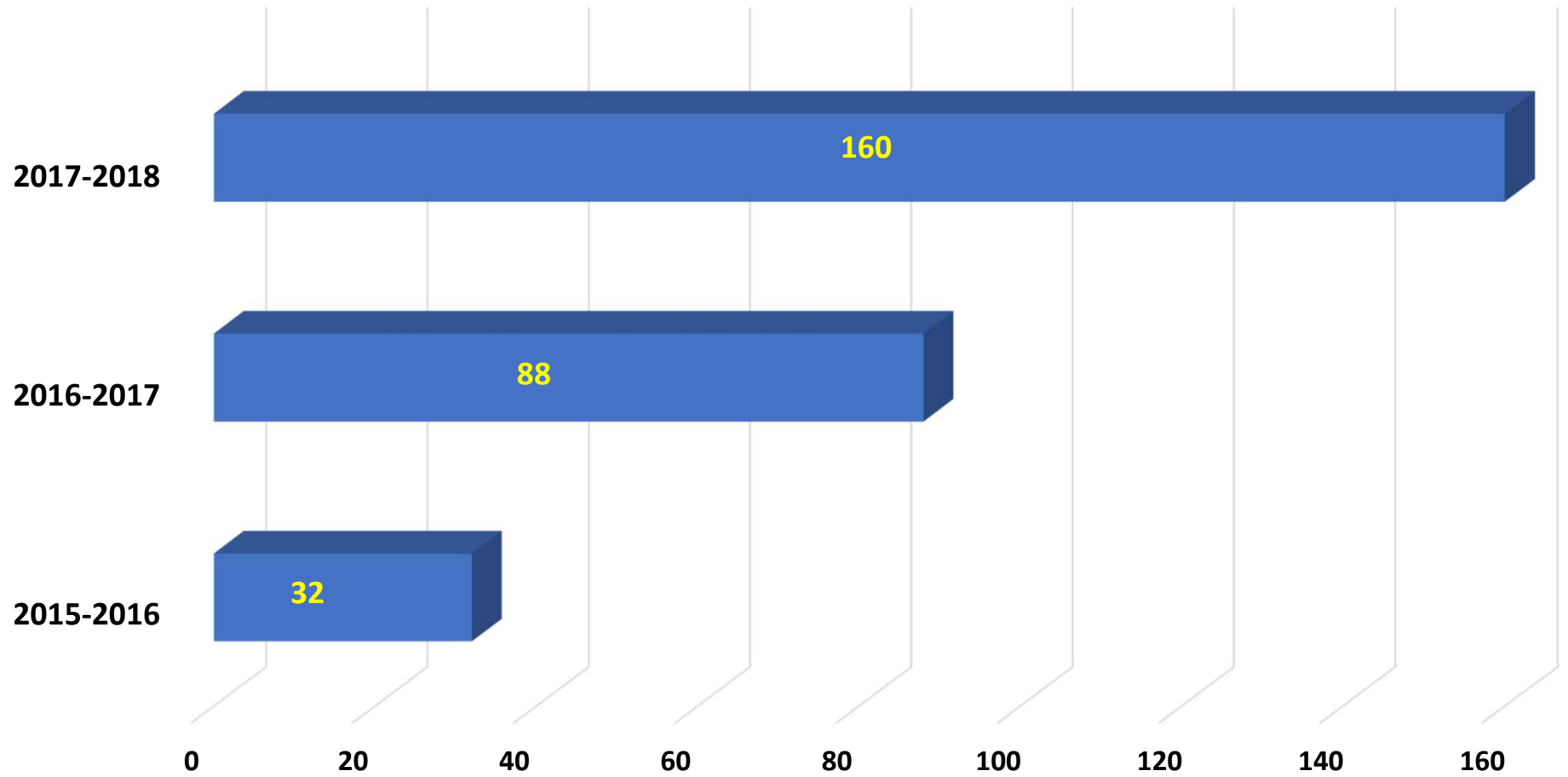




## Student Accessing Services

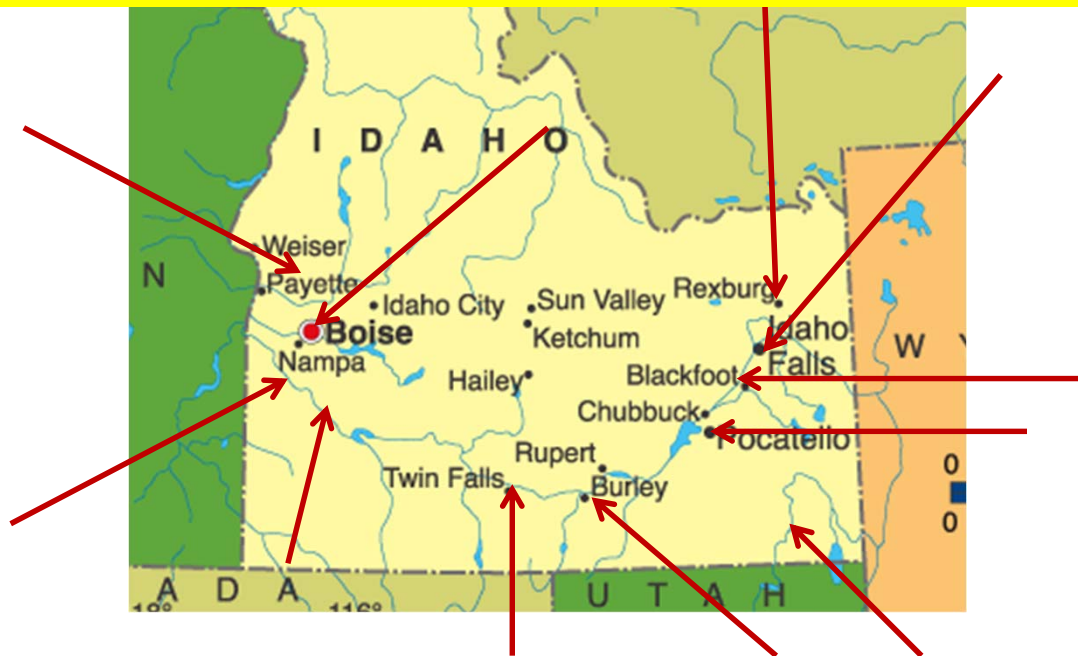


### Successful Closures Students





# Paid Summer Work Experience







# Pathways to Post- Secondary Education

- SOLE LEAD (Selkirk Outdoor Leadership and Education Leadership Environmental Awareness Development)
- University of Idaho Vandal Academy
- Lewis Clark State College CREW (College Readiness Education Workshop)
- McCall Outdoor Science School (M.O.S.S)
- Boise State PREP (Postsecondary Rewarding Education is Possible) Academy
- Idaho State University Academy NeXT
- Idaho State University Bengal Experience



# Post-Secondary Education Options





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# Background

- RSA (Rehabilitation Services Administration) provides grants to assist States in operating statewide vocational rehabilitation (VR) programs.
- Funds are distributed to states based on the statutory formula that takes into account population and per capita income.
- VR implementing regulations require the state incur a portion of expenditures under the VR services portion of the Combined State Plan from non-Federal funds to meet its cost sharing requirements (34 CFR §361.60).



# Background- continued

- Federal share for expenditures made by the state, including expenditures for the provision of VR services and the administration of the VR services portion of the Unified or Combined State Plan, is 78.7 percent.
- The state's share is 21.3 percent of the total program cost.

(34 CFR 361.60(a) and (b))



## State Example: Calculating Match

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Federal VR allotment to the state =  
\$5,000,000

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\$5,000,000 divided by 78.7% = \$6,353,240 =  
total amount that should be available for the  
VR program in that State.

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State Match = 21.3 % of \$6,353,240 =  
\$1,353,240 from all allowable sources.

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\$1,353,240 = state's share of program  
expenditures

# LEA Examples: Calculating Match

- LEA pays \$2,840 of non-federal monies
    - 16% share of school to work VR counselor
    - Percentage is based on student population
  - Federal government will provide an additional \$10,493
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- LEA pays \$17,640 non-federal monies
    - 100% dedicated school to counselor
  - Federal government will provide an additional \$65,177



Benefits Outweigh the Costs

# Questions & Next Steps

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